

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing communications services comprising:

proving a digital subscriber line access multiplexer
5 having a plurality of line cards, each line card having one or more ports;

granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider; and

granting control of a second subset of the ports to
10 a second service provider.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider comprises granting control of at least one of
15 the line cards to the first service provider.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein granting control of a second subset of the ports to a second service provider comprises granting control of at least one of
20 the line cards to the second service provider.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein a first one of the line cards comprises at least two ports and wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a
25 first service provider comprises granting control of a first subset at the ports on the first one of the line cards and granting control of a second subset of the parts on the first one of the line cards.

30 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service

18

provider comprises granting permission to the first service provider to access a network operation center associated with the digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

5

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider comprises granting permission to the first service provider to access an element manager framework server associated with the digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

10

10035392-12304

7. A method for providing communications services comprising;

providing a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having one or more ports;

coupling a network operation center to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer;

receiving at the network operation center from a first service provider configuration information regarding a first subset of the ports and communicating by the network operation center, the configuration information regarding the first subset of ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer; and

receiving at the network operation center from a second service provider configuration information regarding a second subset of the ports; and

communicating, by the network operation center, configuration information from the second service provider regarding a second subset of the ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein receiving at the network operation center from a first service provider configuration information regarding a first subset of the ports comprises receiving configuration information through a user interface.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein receiving at the network operation center from a second service provider configuration information regarding a second subsets of the ports comprises receiving configuration information

10035392-122801

at an element manager framework server in the network operation center.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein receiving at the
5 network operation center from a second service provider configuration information regarding a second subsets of the ports comprises receiving configuration information at an ILEC DSL manager server in the network operating center.

10

11. The method of Claim 7, wherein communicating,
by the network operation center, the configuration information from the second service provider regarding a second subsets of the ports to the digital subscriber
15 line access multiplexer comprises communicating the configuration information through an out-of-band network.

12. The method of Claim 7, wherein communicating,
by the network operation center, the configuration
20 information from the second service provider regarding a second subsets of the ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer comprises communicating the configuration intersection through an in-band network.

10055302-122001

13. A digital subscriber line access multiplexer comprising:

a network interface card;

5 a plurality of line cards coupled to the network interface;

wherein a first set of the line cards is associated with a first service provider; and

wherein a second set of line cards is associated with a second service provider.

10

14. The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, wherein the first set of line cards is controlled by the first service provider.

15

15. The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, wherein the second set of line cards is controlled by the second service provider.

20

16. The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, wherein the first set of line cards are coupled to customers of the first service provider and the second set of line cards are coupled to customers of the second service provider.

25

17. The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 16, wherein, the first set of line cards are coupled to customers of the first service provider by respective copper pairs and the second set of line cards are coupled to customers of the second service provider by respective copper pairs.

30

10035392.122807

18. The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, and further comprising a configuration line coupling the digital subscriber line access multiplexer to a network operation center, the network operation center accessible by the first and second service providers.

19. The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, wherein each line card comprises a plurality of modems coupled by respective copper pairs to subscribers of either the first, second, or another service provider.

10035332.122804

20. A communications system comprising:

a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having a plurality of ports;

5 a network operation center coupled to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer, the network operation center comprising:

10 a digital subscriber line manager operable to provide a user interface to a first service provider to control of a first subset of the ports, the digital subscriber line manager further operable to host one or more client interfaces each associated with a respective service provider, and receive configuration data from the respective service
15 provider associated with a respective subset of the ports; and

an element manager operable to receive configuration information from the digital subscriber line manager and configure the DSLAM
20 based on the received configuration information.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein a first subset of the plurality of line cards is coupled to customers of a first one of the respective service providers and a
25 second subset of the plurality of line cards is coupled to customers of a second one of the respective service providers.

22. The system of Claim 20, wherein the first
30 subset of port is coupled to a customer of the first service provider and a first one of the respective

subsets of the ports is coupled to a second service provider.

23. The system of Claim 20, wherein the network
5 operations center and the digital subscriber line access
multiplexer reside in a telecommunications central
office.

24. The system of Claim 20, wherein the digital
10 subscriber line access multiplexer communicates with the
network operating center by out-of-band communications.

25. The system of Claim 20, wherein the digital
15 subscriber line access multiplexer communicates with the
network operating center by in-band communications.

1005532-12264

25

26. A communications system comprising:

a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having a plurality of ports, a first subset of the ports associated with an incumbent local exchange carrier, and one or more additional subsets of the ports associated with one or more respective competitive local exchange carriers;

an incumbent local exchange carrier network operation center having:

a digital subscriber line manager operable to provide a user interface to the incumbent local exchange carrier associated with the first subset of ports to receive configuration data, and further operable to provide data indicative of the received configuration data to an element manager; and

the element manager coupled to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer, the element manager operable to control the plurality of ports in response to received configuration data; and

one or more competitive digital subscriber line managers operable to provide a user interface to the respective competitive local exchange carrier and receive configuration data associated with the respective additional subsets of the ports, and further operable to provide the received configuration data associated with the respective additional subsets of the ports to the element manager.

26

27. The system of Claim 20, wherein the first subset of ports are coupled to customers of the first service provider.

5 28. The system of Claim 20, wherein the one of more additional subsets of ports are coupled to customers of one or more competitive local exchange carriers.

10 29. The system of Claim 26 wherein the incumbent local exchange carrier and the DSLAM both reside in a telecommunications central office.

1005702-12504

30. A communications system comprising:

a digital subscriber access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having a plurality of ports;

5 a means for allowing configuration of a first subset of the ports by a first service provider;

a means for allowing configuration of a second subset of the ports by a second service provider; and

10 wherein the first subset of ports are coupled to customers of the first service provider, and the second subset of ports are coupled to the customers of the second service provider.

10035393-123001